AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 18, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997-98 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

No. 131

## **Introduced by Assembly Member Ortiz**

January 15, 1997

An act to amend Sections 12001 and 12071 of, and to add Section 12041 to, the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 131, as amended, Ortiz. Firearms: theft or loss.

Existing law prohibits the carrying of a concealed firearm that is known, or reasonably believed, to be stolen. Existing law also requires that any firearm or other deadly weapon that has been taken into custody as a result of being stolen be restored to the lawful owner.

This bill would provide that any person who fails to report the theft or loss of a require any person whose pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person is stolen or irretrievably lost to report the theft or loss to any local law enforcement agency of the city, county, or city and county in which the loss or theft occurred as soon as practical or as soon as the person is capable after the theft or loss has

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occurred is guilty of an infraction. Because this bill would create a new crime, it would impose a state-mandated local <del>program.</del>

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. The bill would provide that any person who violates this provision is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes no. State-mandated local program: yes no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- SECTION 1. Section 12001 of the Penal Code is 1 amended to read:
- 12001. (a) As used in this title, the terms "pistol," 3
- "revolver," and "firearm capable of being concealed
- upon the person" shall apply to and include any device
- designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled
- a projectile by the force of any explosion, or other form 7
- of combustion, and which has a barrel less than 16 inches
- in length. These terms also include any device which has
- a barrel 16 inches or more in length which is designed to
- be interchanged with a barrel less than 16 inches in 12 length.
- (b) As used in this title, "firearm" means any device, 13 designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled 14 through a barrel a projectile by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.
- (c) As used in Sections 12021, 12021.1, 12041, 12070, 17
- 12071, 12072, 12073, 12078, and 12101 of this code, and 18
- Sections 8100, 8101, and 8103 of the Welfare and
- 20 Institutions Code, the term "firearm" includes the frame
- or receiver of the weapon. 21
- 22 (d) For the purposes of Sections 12025 and 12031, the
- 23 "firearm" also shall include any rocket, rocket
- propelled projectile launcher, or similar

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containing any explosive or incendiary material whether or not the device is designed for emergency or distress signaling purposes.

(e) (1) For purposes of Sections 12041, 12070, 12071, and subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of Section 12072, the term "firearm" does not include an unloaded firearm which is defined as an "antique firearm" in Section 921(a)(16) of Title 18 of the United States Code.

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- (2) For purposes of Sections 12070, 10 subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of Section 12072, the term "firearm" does not include an unloaded firearm that meets both of the following:
- (A) It is not a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable 14 of being concealed upon the person.
- (B) It is a curio or relic, as defined in Section 178.11 of 16 Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (f) Nothing shall prevent a device defined "pistol," "revolver," or "firearm capable of being concealed upon the person" from also being found to be 20 a short-barreled shotgun or a short-barreled rifle, as defined in Section 12020.
- (g) For purposes of Sections 12551 and 12552, the term "BB device" means any instrument which expels a 24 metallic projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air pressure, CO<sub>2</sub> pressure, or spring action, or any spot marker gun.
- (h) As used in this title, "wholesaler" means any 28 person who is licensed as a dealer pursuant to Chapter 44 29 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United 30 States Code and the regulations issued pursuant thereto 31 who sells, transfers, or assigns firearms, or parts of 32 firearms, to persons who are licensed as manufacturers, 33 importers, or gunsmiths pursuant to Chapter 34 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United 35 States Code, or persons licensed pursuant to Section 36 12071, and includes persons who receive finished parts of 37 firearms and assemble them into completed or partially completed firearms in furtherance of that purpose.
- 39 "Wholesaler" shall not include a manufacturer, importer, or gunsmith who is licensed to engage in those

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activities pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code or a person licensed pursuant to Section 12071 and the regulations issued pursuant thereto. A wholesaler also does not include those persons dealing exclusively in grips, stocks, and other parts of firearms that are not frames or receivers thereof.

- (i) As used in Section 12071, 12072, or 12084, "application to purchase" means any of the following:
- (1) The initial completion of the register by the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm as required by subdivision (b) of Section 12076.
- (2) The initial completion of the LEFT by 14 purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm as required by subdivision (d) of Section 12084.
  - (3) The initial completion and transmission to department of the record of electronic or telephonic transfer by the dealer on the purchaser, transferee, or being loaned the firearm person required subdivision (c) of Section 12076.
  - (i) For purposes of Section 12023, a firearm shall be deemed to be "loaded" whenever both the firearm and the unexpended ammunition capable of being discharged from the firearm are in the immediate possession of the same person.
- (k) For purposes of Sections 12021, 12021.1, 12025, 12070, 12072, 12073, 12078, and 12101 of this code, and 28 Sections 8100, 8101, and 8103 of the Welfare and 29 Institutions Code, notwithstanding the fact that the term 30 "any firearm" may be used in those sections, each firearm 31 or the frame or receiver of the same shall constitute a distinct and separate offense under those sections.
- (1) For purposes of Section 12020, a violation of that 34 section as to each firearm, weapon, or device enumerated therein shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.
- 36 (m) Pursuant to this title, any firearms eligibility determination involving the issuance of any license, 37 permit, or certificate may include the submission of the 38 applicant's fingerprints to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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1 SEC. 2. Section 12041 is added to the Penal Code, to 2 read:

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- 12041. (a) Any—Commencing July 1, 1998, any person whose pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person is stolen or irretrievably lost shall, as soon as practical or as soon as the person is capable after the theft or loss has occurred, report the theft or loss to any local law enforcement agency of the city, county, or city and county in which the loss or theft occurred.
- (b) Any person who violates this subdivision is guilty of an infraction. liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one 12 hundred dollars (\$100).
- (c) Any person who complies with subdivision (a) by 14 reporting the theft or loss of a pistol, revolver, or other 15 firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, shall 16 not incur any civil liability for illicit use or possession of the firearm occurring after the report. This subdivision shall not apply if the person had any knowledge of the misconduct or was negligent with respect to the theft or loss of the firearm.
- 21 (d) No charge may be imposed for submitting a report 22 pursuant to this section.
- 23 SEC. 3. Section 12071 of the Penal Code is amended 24 to read:
  - 12071. (a) (1) As used in this chapter, the term "licensee," "person licensed pursuant to Section 12071," or "dealer" means a person who is among those recorded in the centralized list specified in subdivision (e) and has all of the following:
- (A) A valid federal firearms license. 30
- 31 (B) Any regulatory or business license, or licenses, 32 required by local government.
- (C) A valid seller's permit issued by the State Board of 33 34 Equalization.
- 35 (D) A certificate of eligibility issued by the 36 Department of Justice pursuant to paragraph (4).
- (E) A license issued in the format prescribed by 37 38 paragraph (6).
- (2) The duly constituted licensing authority of a city, 39 county, or a city and county shall accept applications for,

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and may grant licenses permitting, licensees to sell firearms at retail within the city, county, or city and county. The duly constituted licensing authority shall 4 inform applicants who are denied licenses of the reasons 5 for the denial in writing.

- (3) No license shall be granted to any applicant who fails to provide a copy of his or her valid federal firearms license, valid seller's permit issued by the State Board of Equalization, and the certificate of eligibility described in 10 paragraph (4).
- (4) A person may request a certificate of eligibility 12 from the Department of Justice and the Department of Justice shall issue a certificate to an applicant if the department's records indicate that the applicant is not a person who is prohibited from possessing firearms.
- department shall adopt regulations administer the certificate of eligibility program and shall 18 recover the full costs of administering the program by imposing fees assessed to applicants who apply for those 20 certificates.
  - (6) A license granted by the duly constituted licensing authority of any city, county, or city and county, shall be valid for not more than one year from the date of issuance and shall be in one of the following forms:
    - (A) In the form prescribed by the Attorney General.
  - (B) A regulatory or business license that states on its face "Valid for Retail Sales of Firearms" and is endorsed by the signature of the issuing authority.
- duly constituted licensing letter from the 30 authority having primary jurisdiction for the applicant's 31 intended business location stating that the jurisdiction does not require any form of regulatory or business license or does not otherwise restrict or regulate the sale 34 of firearms.
- 35 (7) Local licensing authorities may assess fees to 36 recover their full costs of processing applications for 37 licenses.
- (b) A license is subject to forfeiture for a breach of any 38 39 of the following prohibitions and requirements:

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(1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the business shall be conducted only in the buildings designated in the license.

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(B) A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) may take possession of firearms and commence preparation of registers for the sale, delivery, or transfer of firearms at gun shows or events, as defined in Section 178.100 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or its successor, if the gun show or event is not conducted from any towed vehicle. 10 motorized or A person conducting business pursuant to this subparagraph shall be entitled to conduct business as authorized herein at any gun show 13 or event in the state without regard to the jurisdiction 14 within this state that issued the license pursuant to subdivision (a), provided the person complies with (i) all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the waiting period specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), and (ii) all applicable local laws, regulations, and fees, if

conducting business person pursuant subparagraph shall publicly display his or her license issued pursuant to subdivision (a), or a facsimile thereof, at any gun show or event, as specified in subparagraph.

(C) A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) may engage in the sale and transfer of firearms other than pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person, at events specified subdivision (g) of Section 12078, subject prohibitions restrictions contained in and that subdivision.

A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) also may accept delivery of firearms other than pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person, outside the building designated in the license, provided the firearm is being donated for the purpose of sale or transfer at an auction or similar event specified in subdivision (g) of Section 12078.

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- (D) The firearm may be delivered to the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm at one of the following places:
  - (i) The building designated in the license.
  - (ii) The places specified in subparagraph (B) or (C).
- (iii) The place of residence of, the fixed place of business of, or on private property owned or lawfully possessed by, the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm.
- 10 (2) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the 11 issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can easily be seen. 12
  - (3) No firearm shall be delivered:
- (A) Prior to April 1, 1997, within 15 days of the application to purchase a pistol, revolver, or other firearm 15 capable of being concealed upon the person, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (d) of 17 18 Section 12076, within 15 days of the submission to the department of any correction to the application, or within 20 15 days of the submission to the department of any fee 21 required pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 12076, whichever is later. Prior to April 1, 1997, within 10 days of the application to purchase any firearm that is not a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, within 10 days of the submission to the department of any correction to the application, or within 10 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 12076, whichever 30 31 is later. On or after April 1, 1997, within 10 days of the 32 purchase, or, after notice by application to 33 department pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, 34 within 10 days of the submission to the department of any 35 correction to the application, or within 10 days of the 36 submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 12076, whichever 37 38 is later.
- 39 (B) Unless unloaded and securely wrapped or unloaded and in a locked container.

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(C) Unless the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents clear evidence of his or her identity and age to the dealer.

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- dealer is notified (D) Whenever the by the Department of Justice that the person is in a prohibited class described in Section 12021 or 12021.1 of this code or Section 8100 or 8103 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (4) No pistol, revolver, or other firearm or imitation thereof capable of being concealed upon the person, or placard advertising the sale or other transfer thereof, shall 10 be displayed in any part of the premises where it can readily be seen from the outside.
- (5) The licensee shall agree to and shall act properly 14 promptly in processing firearms transactions and pursuant to Section 12082.
  - (6) The licensee shall comply with Sections 12073, 12076, and 12077, subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 12072, and subdivision (a) of Section 12316.
- 19 (7) The licensee shall post conspicuously within the licensed premises the following warnings in block letters not less than one inch in height:
- 22 (A) "IF YOU LEAVE A LOADED **FIREARM** 23 A CHILD **OBTAINS** WHERE AND **IMPROPERLY** 24 USES IT, YOU MAY BE FINED OR SENT TO PRISON."
- 25 (B) "DISCHARGING **FIREARMS** IN **POORLY** VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS, **AMMUNITION** 27 HANDLING MAY RESULT IN 28 EXPOSURE TO LEAD, A SUBSTANCE KNOWN TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS, REPRODUCTIVE HARM. AND OTHER SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY. HAVE
- ADEQUATE VENTILATION AT ALL TIMES. WASH
- 32 HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER EXPOSURE."
- 33 (C) "IF YOUR HANDGUN IS LOST OR STOLEN, 34 YOU NEED TO REPORT THE LOSS OR THEFT TO A 35 LAW **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** AS SOON 36 PRACTICAL OR AS SOON AS YOU ARE CAPABLE."
- (8) Commencing April 1, 1994, no pistol, revolver, or 37 capable of being concealed upon the 38 other firearm person shall be delivered unless the purchaser,

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transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents to the dealer a basic firearms safety certificate.

- (9) Commencing July 1, 1992, the licensee shall offer to provide the purchaser or transferee of a firearm, or person being loaned a firearm, with a copy of the pamphlet described in Section 12080 and may add the cost of the pamphlet, if any, to the sales price of the
- 9 (10) The licensee shall not commit an act of collusion 10 as defined in Section 12072.
  - (11) The licensee shall post conspicuously within the licensed premises a detailed list of each of the following:
- 13 (A) All charges required by governmental 14 for processing firearm transfers required by Sections 12076, 12082, and 12806. 15
  - (B) All fees that the licensee charges pursuant to Sections 12082 and 12806.
- (12) The licensee shall not misstate the amount of fees 19 charged by a governmental agency pursuant to Sections 12076, 12082, and 12806.
- (13) The licensee shall report the loss or theft of any 22 firearm that is merchandise of the licensee, any firearm 23 that the licensee takes possession of pursuant to Section 24 12082, or any firearm kept at the licensee's place of 25 business within 48 hours of discovery to the appropriate 26 law enforcement agency in the city, county, or city and county where the licensee's business premises 28 located.
- (14) In a city and county, or in the unincorporated 30 area of a county with a population of 200,000 persons or more according to the most recent federal decennial 32 census or within a city with a population of 50,000 persons 33 or more according to the most recent federal decennial 34 census, any time the licensee is not open for business, the 35 licensee shall store all firearms kept in his or her licensed place of business using one of the following methods as to each particular firearm:
- (A) Store the firearm in a secure facility that is a part 38 of, or that constitutes, the licensee's business premises.

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(B) Secure the firearm with a hardened steel rod or cable of at least one-eighth inch in diameter through the trigger guard of the firearm. The steel rod or cable shall be secured with a hardened steel lock that has a shackle. The lock and shackle shall be protected or shielded from the use of a bolt cutter and the rod or cable shall be anchored in a manner that prevents the removal of the firearm from the premises.

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- (C) Store the firearm in a locked fireproof safe or vault 10 in the licensee's business premises.
- (15) The licensing authority in an unincorporated area of a county with a population less than 200,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census or within a city with a population of less than 50,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census 16 may impose the requirements specified in paragraph (14).
  - (16) Commencing January 1, 1994, the licensee shall, upon the issuance or renewal of a license, submit a copy of the same to the Department of Justice.
- (17) The licensee shall maintain and make available for inspection during business hours to any peace officer, authorized local law enforcement employee, designated by 24 Department of Justice employee the upon Attorney General, the presentation of proper identification, a firearms transaction record.
  - (18) (A) On the date of receipt, the licensee shall report to the Department of Justice in a format prescribed by the department the acquisition by the licensee of the ownership of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.
  - (B) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any of the following transactions:
  - (i) A transaction subject the provisions of to subdivision (n) of Section 12078.
- 36 (ii) The dealer acquired the firearm from a 37 wholesaler.
- (iii) The dealer is also licensed as a secondhand dealer 38 pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625)

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of Chapter 9 of Division 8 of the Business and Professions 2 Code.

- (iv) The dealer acquired the firearm from a person who is licensed as a manufacturer or importer to engage in those activities pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and any regulations issued pursuant thereto.
- (v) The dealer acquired the firearm from a person who resides outside this state who is licensed pursuant to 10 Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and any regulations issued pursuant thereto.
- (c) (1) As used in this article, "clear evidence of his or 14 her identity and age" means either of the following:
  - (A) A valid California driver's license.
- (B) A valid California identification card issued by the 17 Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (2) As used in this article, a "basic firearms safety means a basic firearms safety certificate 19 certificate" 20 issued to the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm by the Department of Justice pursuant to Article 8 (commencing with Section 12800) of Chapter
  - (3) As used in this section, a "secure facility" means a building that meets all of the following specifications:
  - (A) All perimeter doorways shall meet one of the following:
- 28 (i) A windowless steel security door equipped with both a dead bolt and a doorknob lock.
  - (ii) A windowed metal door that is equipped with both a dead bolt and a doorknob lock. If the window has an opening of five inches or more measured in any direction, the window shall be covered with steel bars of at least one-half inch diameter or metal grating of at least nine gauge affixed to the exterior or interior of the door.
- (iii) A metal grate that is padlocked and affixed to the 36 37 licensee's premises independent of the door doorframe. 38
  - (B) All windows are covered with steel bars.

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(C) Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and service openings are secured with steel bars, metal grating, or an alarm system.

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- (D) Any metal grates have spaces no larger than six inches wide measured in any direction.
- (E) Any metal screens have spaces no larger than three inches wide measured in any direction.
- (F) All steel bars shall be no further than six inches apart.
- "licensed used in this section. (4) As premises." "licensee's "licensed place of business," place business," or "licensee's business premises" means the building designated in the license.
  - (5) For purposes of paragraph (17) of subdivision (b):
- (A) A "firearms transaction record" 16 containing the same information referred to in Section 178.124a and subdivision (e) of Section 178.125 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (B) A licensee shall be in compliance with the 20 provisions of paragraph (17) of subdivision (b) if he or she maintains and makes available for inspection during 22 business hours to any peace officer, authorized local law employee, Department enforcement or of employee designated by the Attorney General, upon the presentation of proper identification, the bound book 26 containing the same information referred to in Section 178.124a and subdivision (e) of Section 178.125 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- from (d) Upon written request a licensee. 30 licensing authority may grant an exemption from compliance with the requirements of paragraph (14) of subdivision (b) if the licensee is unable to comply with those requirements because of local ordinances. 34 covenants, lease conditions, or similar circumstances not under the control of the licensee.
- (e) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the Department of Justice shall keep a centralized list of 37 all persons licensed pursuant to subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). The department may remove from this list any person who

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knowingly or with gross negligence violates this article. Upon removal of a dealer from this list, notification shall 3 be provided to local law enforcement and licensing authorities in the jurisdiction where the dealer's business is located. The department shall make information about an individual dealer available, upon request, for one of the following purposes only:

(1) For law enforcement purposes.

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- (2) When the information is requested by a person 10 licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code for determining the validity of the license for firearm shipments.
- (f) The Department of Justice may inspect dealers to 15 ensure compliance with this article. The department may 16 assess an annual fee, not to exceed eighty-five dollars (\$85), to cover the reasonable cost of maintaining the list 18 described in subdivision (e), including the cost of 19 inspections. Dealers whose place of business is in a 20 jurisdiction that has adopted an inspection program to 21 ensure compliance with firearms law shall be exempt 22 from that portion of the department's fee that relates to the cost of inspections. The applicant is responsible for providing evidence to the department the 25 jurisdiction in which the business is located has the 26 inspection program.
- (g) The Department of Justice shall maintain and 28 make available upon request information concerning the number of inspections conducted and the amount of fees 30 collected pursuant to subdivision (f), exempted jurisdictions, as defined in subdivision (f), the number of dealers removed from the centralized list defined in subdivision (e), and the number of dealers 34 found to have violated this article with knowledge or gross negligence.
  - (h) Paragraph (14) or (15) of subdivision (b) shall not apply to a licensee organized as a nonprofit public benefit or mutual benefit corporation organized pursuant to Part (commencing with Section 5110) (commencing with Section 7110) of Division 2 of the

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1 Corporations Code, if both of the following conditions are 2 satisfied:

- (1) The nonprofit public benefit or mutual benefit corporation obtained the dealer's license solely and exclusively to assist that corporation or local chapters of that corporation in conducting auctions or similar events at which firearms are auctioned off to fund the activities of that corporation or the local chapters of the corporation.
- (2) The firearms are not pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person.
- SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.
  - Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.